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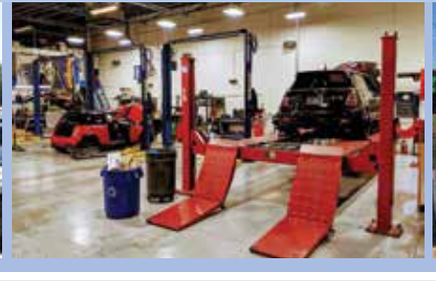

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The Arizona BEEHIVE Magazine

Serving Arizona Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

MONUMENTAL!

The Mormon Battalion Commemorates 175 Years

ON THE COVER

Statue of Army Captain James Allen at Mormon Battalion Historic Site, San Diego, California.

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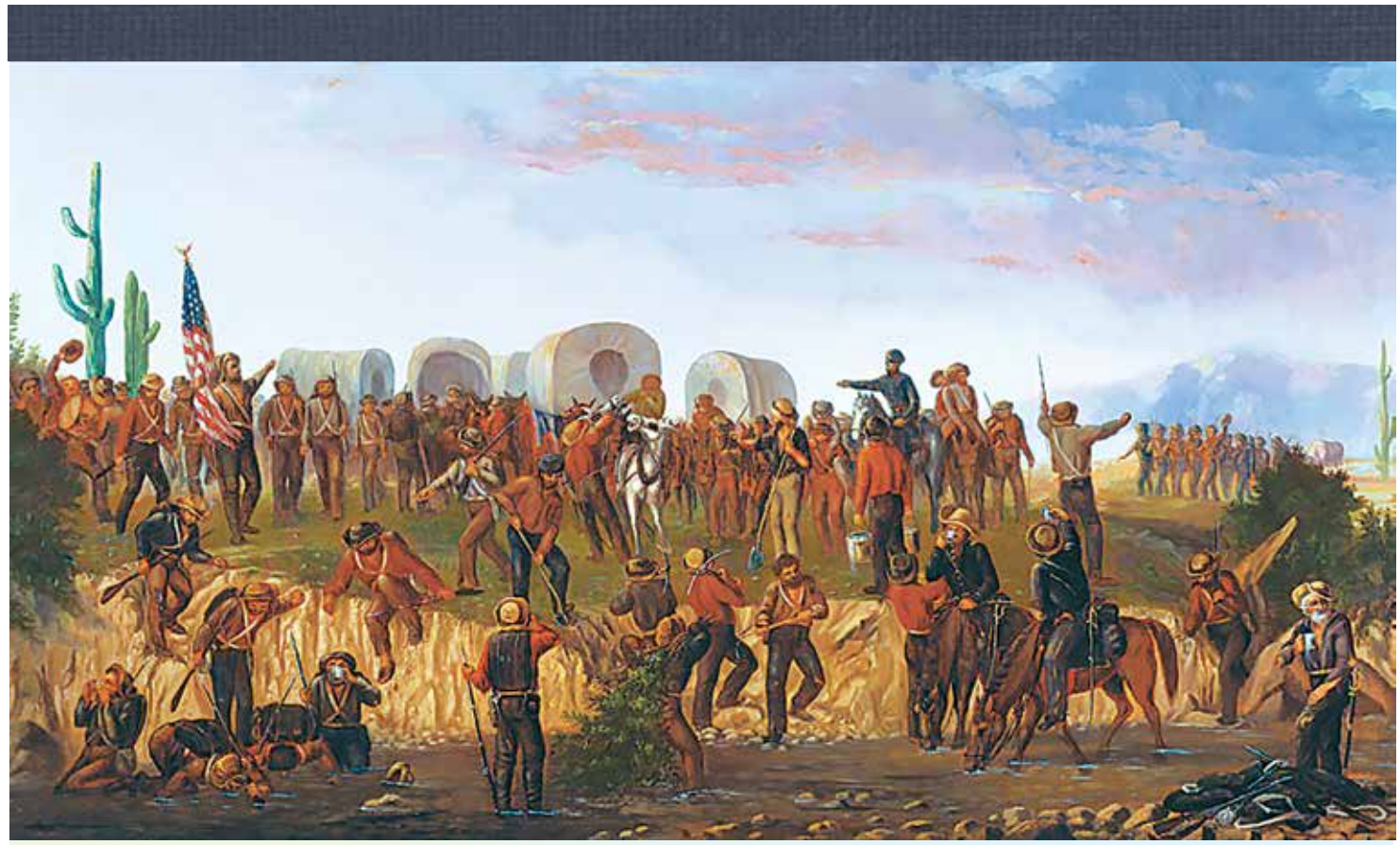


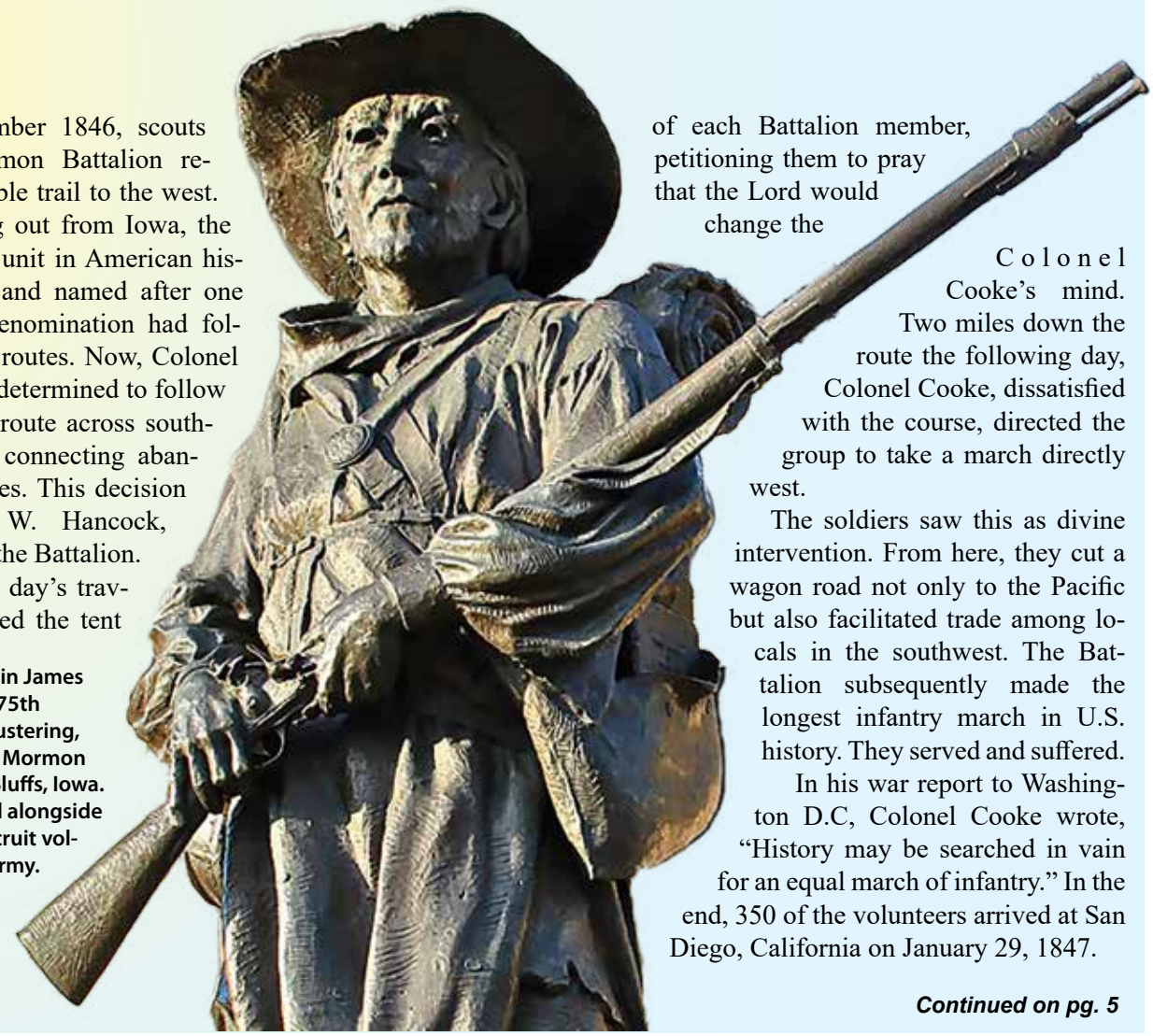
"The Mormon Battalion," by George Ottinger. Courtesy of Church History Museum

They Served & Suffered

The Mormon Battalion Commemorates 175 Years

By Emily Jex Boyle

In late November 1846, scouts for the Mormon Battalion reported no viable trail to the west. Since lighting out from Iowa, the only military unit in American history made up of and named after one single religious denomination had followed established routes. Now, Colonel Philip Cooke was determined to follow a suggested trade route across southern New Mexico connecting abandoned copper mines. This decision concerned Levi W. Hancock, spiritual leader of the Battalion. Prior to their next day's travels, Hancock visited the tent of each Battalion member, petitioning them to pray that the Lord would change the Colonel Cooke's mind. Two miles down the route the following day, Colonel Cooke, dissatisfied with the course, directed the group to take a march directly west.



Statue of Army Captain James Allen. July 16 is the 175th anniversary of the mustering, or assembling, of the Mormon Battalion in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Captain Allen worked alongside Brigham Young to recruit volunteers for the U.S. Army. About 500 Saints enlisted, and at least 34 women and 44 children traveled with the battalion.

The soldiers saw this as divine intervention. From here, they cut a wagon road not only to the Pacific but also facilitated trade among locals in the southwest. The Battalion subsequently made the longest infantry march in U.S. history. They served and suffered.

In his war report to Washington D.C, Colonel Cooke wrote, "History may be searched in vain for an equal march of infantry." In the end, 350 of the volunteers arrived at San Diego, California on January 29, 1847.

Continued on pg. 5

What's The Buzz?

A highly recommended read is Tad Walch's blog he calls "Church Beat." Tad is a writer for the Deseret News. On a recent post Tad recalled President Gordon B. Hinckley's March 2000 visit to the National Press Club where he "had the National Press Club laughing out loud" as the "Church leader shared his belief in Jesus Christ, prayer and service while having fun at the expense of himself and the nation's journalists."

During his presentation, President Hinckley shared a few of the Church's beliefs, and shared his thoughts on why the Church was growing as it was at the time. I thought I'd share these points as they remain salient and powerful to this day:

"Our desire everywhere is to make bad men good and good men better."

"We teach, we train, we build, we educate, we provide opportunity for growth and development. We give hope to those without hope, and there is nothing greater you can give a man or a woman than hope."

"The genius of our work is that we expect things of our people. They grow as they serve and there are numerous opportunities to challenge them."

"We are a church in whose name is the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. We bear witness of him and it is his example and his teachings we try to follow. We give love. We bring peace."

"We think we are improving people's lives. We think that we are causing them to stand taller, straighter and be better people, and when all is said and done that is purpose of any religion. We are trying to do our part and trying to do it in a very aggressive but practical and hard-headed way, if you please, so that we build on a strong foundation for the future."

Of this, there is no doubt: In our day, as in that day 22 years ago, we have "heard of wars and rumors of wars, and the whole earth (is) in commotion..." (D&C 45:26). And yet, our Prophets continue to exclaim that this is the most wonderful period of our existence on this blue planet. How can this be? Through all the commotion we see and experience every single day? It is because of what President Hinckley outlined at this meeting. And continues to be reinforced by each successive President of our magnificent Church.

The pages of this publication aim to celebrate this outlook and attitude with every single issue. Our mission is to find "anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy" (Articles of Faith 13) around us and within our community. Because in such a world, we all need such things. I hope you enjoy this issue. Thank you for reading...

To view President Hinckley's presentation, visit this website: https://www.c-span.org/video/?155887-1/standing

Michael O'Brien
Publisher

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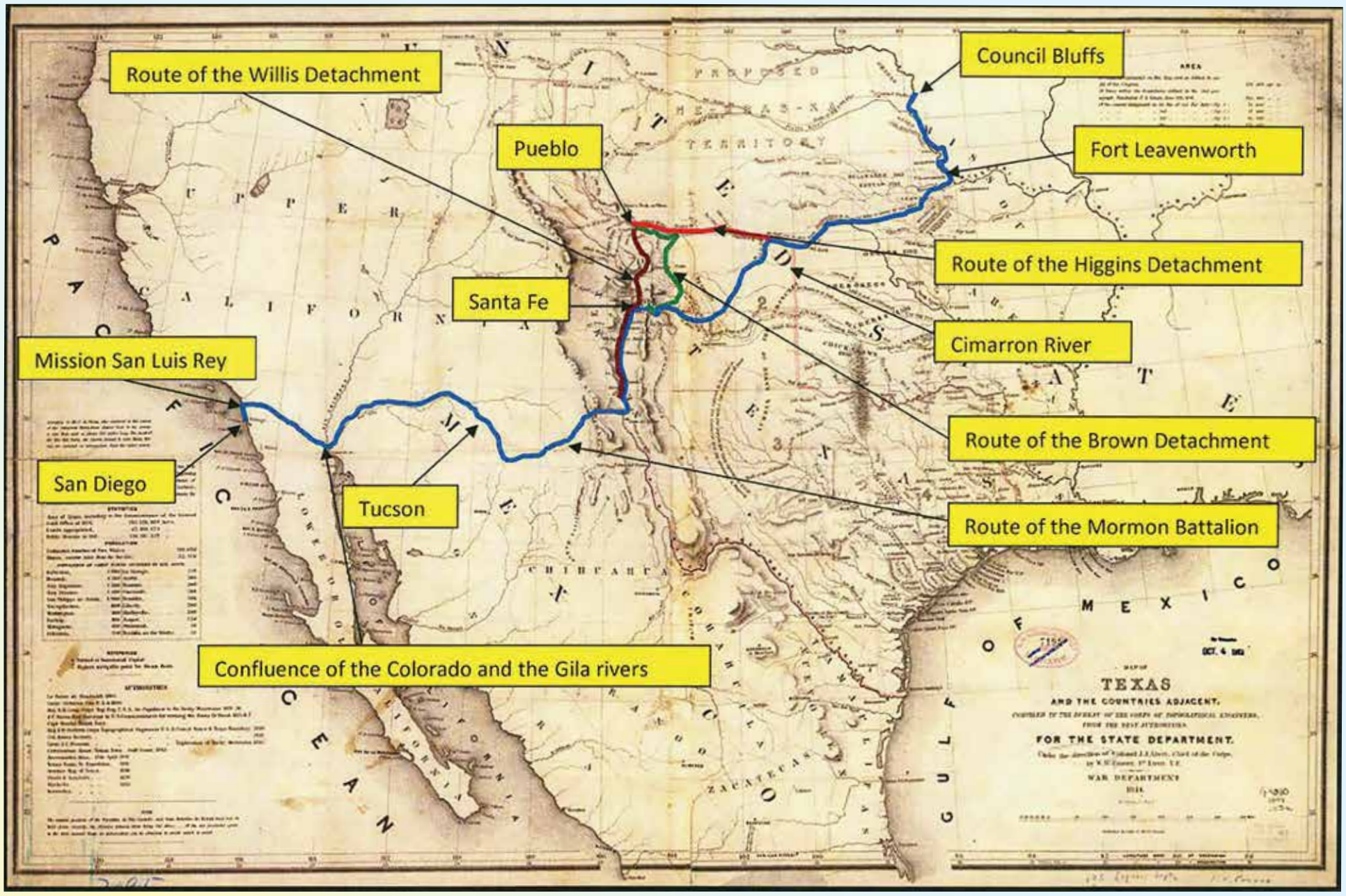

Mormon Battalion Routes

Battalion Map courtesy of http://www.three-peaks.net/battalion.htm

History of the Mormon Battalion

In the bitter late winter of 1846, mobs drove members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from their Nauvoo, Illinois homes and lands. Months later, as Mormon exiles sheltered across the plains of Iowa, the United States Army requested volunteers for service to their country during the Mexican-American War. Army officials were initially skeptical to this idea, due to years of failure to answer desperate pleas from the saints to uphold and defend their fundamental rights as citizens. However, with the encouragement of President Brigham Young, more than 500 enlisted, forming what would come to be known as The Mormon Battalion.

President Young welcomed the opportunity for enlistment in the army. Both the US government and the exiled Saints would profit from what the soldiers in such a battalion would accomplish. Their sacrifice and service would not only help fund some of the trek west but would also allow an opportunity for the Saints to demonstrate loyalty to their country.

On July 16, 1846 at Council Bluffs, Iowa, 500 volunteers mustered into five companies. At least 34 women and 44 children also accompanied the battalion. Many enlistees sent their uniform allotment money to their destitute families on the plains. This contributed to their rougher appearance, raising doubts for the success of their mission by some, including Colonel Cooke.

A Prophet's Counsel

Prior to the Battalion's departure from Iowa, President Young gave direct counsel to each member: Keep the commandments of God. Pray morning and night. Obey your commanders. Respect the life and property of everyone you meet. He blessed them that if they were faithful, they wouldn't have to kill the enemy, that their lives would be protected, and their deeds would be honored for generations.

Photo by Mormon Battalion Historic Site at San Diego California Facebook page

The soldiers of the Mormon Battalion not only exercised faith and proved their allegiance to the United States, but they sacrificed for their families, the Church, and the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Continued on pg. 7

AARON BURROUGHS

FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Aaron Burroughs, Esq., has been a resident of Arizona since he was three years old and is a graduate of Safford High School in Eastern Arizona where his mother was a teacher. Aaron served his mission in Cape Town, South Africa where he learned the Xhosa and Afrikaans languages. He returned to Mesa where he double majored in Marketing and Supply Chain and ultimately earned his J.D. degree from ASU. He is a former Maricopa County Prosecutor who worked in the East Mesa Justice Court. It was this experience that prompted him to seek this position so he could ensure that the residents of East Mesa have a knowledgeable, principled judge who will uphold the law and the constitution. He is the only attorney or law school graduate running for this position.

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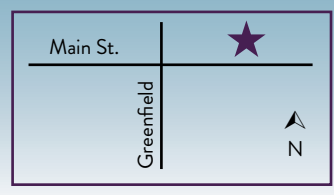

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Extreme Thirst

The critical challenge of trailblazing however was access to water. Constant thirst during their march brought many to their breaking point. Alleviating thirst trumped empty stomachs and shoeless feet. Battalion member Melissa Coray placed a smooth stone in her mouth during the long marches to generate saliva. William Hyde recorded in his journal following a seventy mile stretch between New Mexico and Arizona that Colonel Cooke said, "Any other company under like circumstances would have mutinied."

The Mormon Battalion Association

The Mormon Battalion Association find it their duty to keep Brigham's charge, and to remember and share the stories of the battalion. The following are some of those stories:

The battalion marched along the Rio Grande River, turning west across the wild of Southern Arizona. At the San Pedro River, a herd of wild bulls attacked, goring men and mules, turning over supply wagons. As promised by Brigham Young, none of the men were killed. The unusual attack was a blessing, for the company was low on food supplies, and the slain bulls provided meat.

They continued west to Tucson where the Mexican Army had garrisoned the Old Pueblo as a fortress. With no artillery, the men prayed for deliverance. In battle formation, the battalion marched into the city. A messenger met them on the way, telling them the Mexican army had fled south. The Mormon Battalion entered Tucson without conflict. They raised the first American flag over Arizona, a flag brought from Nauvoo which had flown over the city prior to the expulsion.

Tucson was nearly deserted, but the people they did encounter were treated kindly and offered fair trade for needed supplies. The battalion marched down the Santa Cruz River to the Pima Indian Village, 30 miles south of Mesa today.

Their march across the Sonoran Desert near modern day Phoenix was the better part of their trek. Ground was firm and flat, they had battle beef jerky, vegetables from the Pima and flour from Tucson. Christmas Day was mild, then they crossed the Colorado River, trekking across the treacherous Mojave Desert of Southern California. Soldiers tied ropes to the wagons and helped their dying mules drag the wagons through deep sand. Dehydration and exposure nearly claimed many lives.

Photo by Mormon Battalion Historic Site at San Diego California Facebook page

Mormon Battalion reenactment.

Photo by Brittany Blackburn

Restored in 2010, the family friendly San Diego Mormon Battalion Visitor Center is free to the public with interactive displays, panning for gold and more.

In January 1847, after 2200 miles they reached the Pacific Ocean. Still considered the longest infantry march in US military history, the Mormon Battalion covered twice as much distance as any other infantry had ever traveled.

In San Diego, the Battalion built a fort and the first courthouse in California. Soldiers whitewashed most of the houses in town as a service for the local people. When discharged from the army, the people of San Diego invited them to stay.

The army offered real enlistment to the soldiers, but the men wanted to get back to their families. They had to travel at their own expense to Utah, and all the way back to Iowa for some.

In his report to the war department, Colonel Cooke wrote that the Battalion had built an all-weather road access across the desert Southwest, and dug wells for future travelers. The trail they blazed became the year-round route of the California 49ers, the Butterfield stage line, the Southern Pacific railroad and Interstate 8. Cooke noted, in spite of terrible hardships, none of the men quit or deserted. After a long-distinguished career as a Union Army general in the Civil war, Colonel Cooke said the untrained Mormon Battalion was the most faithful group of soldiers he had ever commanded.

Photo by Mormon Battalion Historic Site at San Diego California Facebook page

Take a virtual tour of the Mormon Battalion Historic Site at San Diego! Through vivid storytelling, learn about the Mormon Battalion, their journey to California, and their contributions to the establishment of the Church in the western United States.
To schedule a virtual tour, please visit: https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/.../mormon-battalion.

Honoring their Memory

Dave Smith of the Mormon Battalion Association in Arizona retells the Battalion's history at local events and gatherings. When asked what youth and families can do now to remember the stories of the Battalion he said, "Go see the monuments and sites!"

For more information about the Mormon Battalion, visit www.history.churchofjesuschrist.org. For monuments, visit www.ensignpeakfoundation.org

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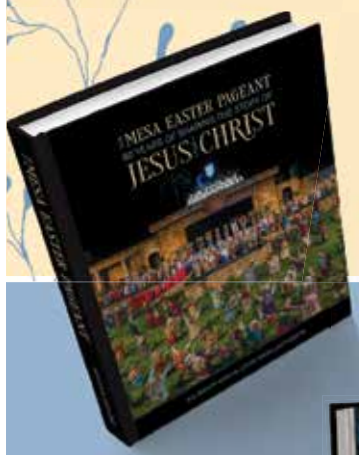

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By Robin Finlinson

THERE IS UNITY IN COMMUNITY

TEMPE DAY OF PRAYER

Photo by Marcus Johnson

The family of Tempe Stake President Marcus Johnson, including his wife Alexandria, offers cookies to participants at the end of the car procession.

Photo by Robin Finlinson

Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints wave as participants drive by the Tempe Arizona Stake Center.

The City of Tempe formally recognized May 4, 2022 as Tempe Day of Prayer. It came about thanks to a suggestion by Mckell Keeney, Communication Director of the Tempe Coordinating Council of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, to Tempe Interfaith Fellowship.

Sister Keeney also organized a progressive event to celebrate the day with participants following a map from one house of worship to another. Event themes were, "There is Unity in Community" and "Prays Well With Others."

The day began at Temple Emanuel of Tempe, at which Mayor Corey Woods read a proclamation that encouraged "citizens of all beliefs to join together in prayer with love for all people."

Rabbi Cookie Lea Olshein delightedly welcomed guests and prayed "for all who serve our country with selfless devotion" and "all those whose noble deeds and sacrifice benefit our nation and our world." The highlight was when she invited everyone to congregate by the podium. An exquisite Torah scroll handwritten in Hebrew—one of nearly 1,600 that were rescued from the Holocaust in what is now the Czech Republic—was placed upon it for them to see up close! The rabbi teaches her young students to read them, preserving the history of so many people who perished.

From there, participants simply progressed in their own vehicles to churches within a couple miles of each other— but didn't stop inside. As they drove by, they were encouraged to have someone in the car read a given prayer or offer one in their own tradition for a specific topic. A sign placed by the Tempe Stake Center read, "Pray for Family & Friends," with several members of the Tempe Stake waving to motorists as they drove past the building.

Churches along the route included University Presbyterian Church, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, Community Christian Church, Guardian Angels Catholic Community, and University Lutheran Church.

At the end of the short trek, a congregation of Quakers known as the Tempe Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends invited guests inside their place of worship. The Friends happily gave Tempe Stake President Marcus Johnson a tour, spending quality time getting to know one another.

Participants who drove to the finish line were rewarded with snicker doodle cookies, handed to them by President Johnson's family.

Photo by Robin Finlinson

Bob Schroeder, Gretchen Reinhardt and Harvey Smith of the Tempe Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends gave the sons of Tempe Stake President Marcus Johnson grapefruits from the back of their building. The boys play while the adults chat.

Photo by Robin Finlinson

Mayor of Tempe Corey Woods just after reading the Tempe Day of Prayer Proclamation.

President Johnson remarked afterward, "I attribute that occasion as a great opportunity to get to know these faith leaders. Being in their places of worship, or more specifically, their spiritual homes, helps me better understand who they are and why they are so passionate about their community."

Sister Keeney also noted, "When we go inside other churches and faith centers, we can feel peace as we find we have many things in common. These are people who love God and love their neighbors."

Tempe is already planning to celebrate again next year on the National Day of Prayer—Thursday, May 4, 2023!

To see additional photos of this event, please find this article on ArizonaBeehive.com.

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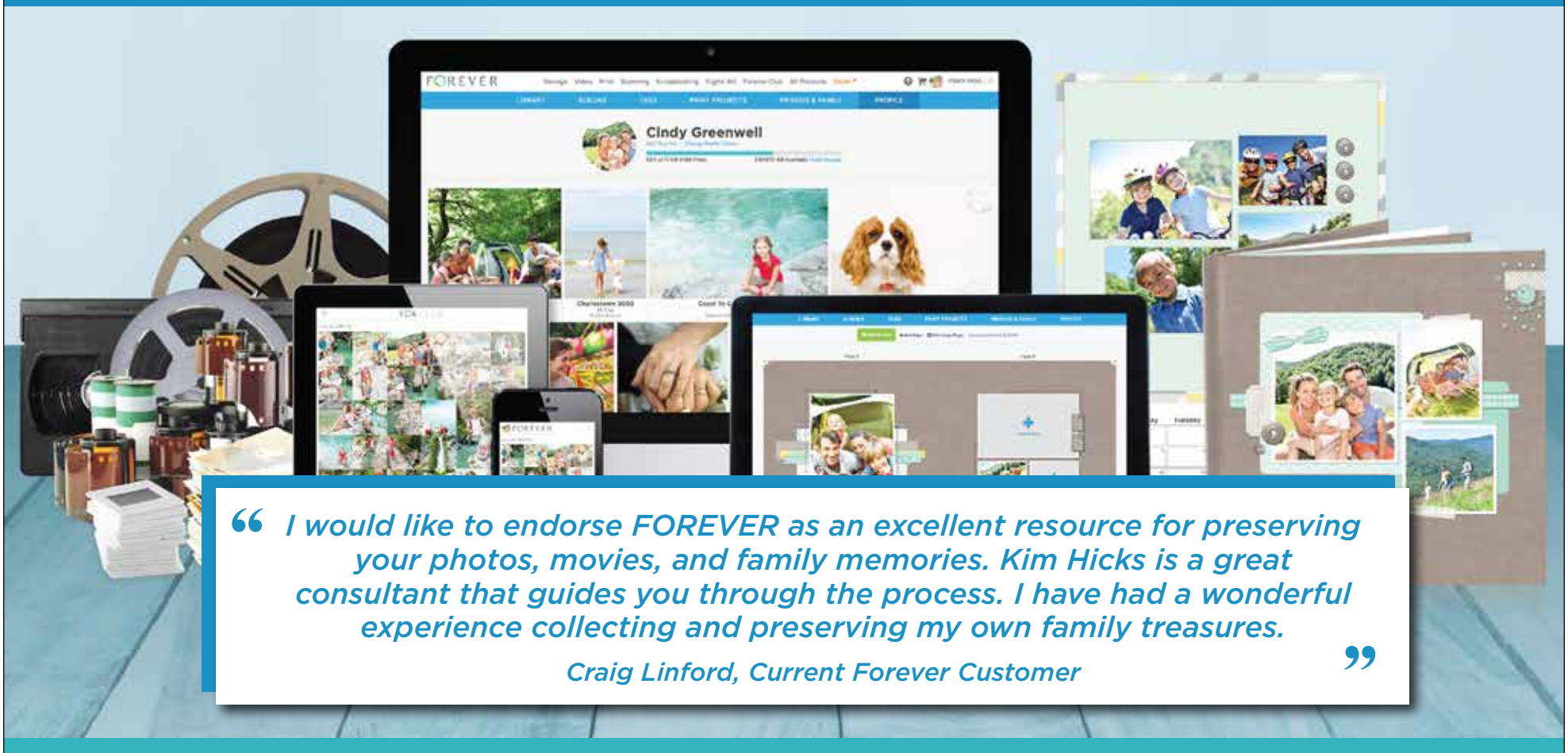

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Love. Share. Invite.

A Musical Celebration of the Book of Mormon

By Cindy R. Williams

"Speaking From The Dust, A Musical Celebration of the Book of Mormon," is a new musical debuting in Arizona. The music and lyrics are written and produced by Arizona resident, Kyle Jacobs.

Jacobs, a classically trained pianist, wrote the music, lyrics and produced the musical. Two of his brothers, drummer Sam Jacobs and bassist Eric Jacobs, also perform in this remarkable story of voices calling from the dust, warning all the world.

Jacobs ponders, "Can we really learn anything from people who lived over 2,000 years ago? Is there any point in trying? The answer is 'Yes!' This concert is designed to make the connections between their day and ours. If those connections are made then the power of their faith, courage, and conviction can make an immeasurable impact on our lives and draw us closer to the Savior than we have ever been.

"It is my sincere desire that after experiencing this music, you will read The Book of Mormon in a way you never have before and will walk away with a stronger conviction of its truthfulness and with the energy and excitement to share it with the world."

One song from the production called *Waste My Time* references the Book of Enos and explores finding our own conviction. The song's lyrics read:

The world's voices, they are so loud but I can't hear them anymore.

Far from easy but now I've finally found what I was looking for.

Now that I've found it, I know I'm surrounded, by people who need me.

And if I can show them that their Father knows them what else could they see?

I don't want to waste my time anymore, anymore, it's time for me to choose a side and not look back.

Kyle Jacobs-Keyboards, Sam Jacobs-Drums and Eric Jacobs-Bass Guitar.

Another original song titled *The Price* is based on Alma 62:35-37. It's about Teancum and commitment:

"Some things are bigger than just our lives, when death is not the end you never compromise."

In the title song, Jacobs writes about the Prophet Joseph Smith and likening the scriptures unto our-

Continued on pg. 13

A Peculiar People

Saints Unscripted Podcast Tackles Challenging Church Member Topics

By Allison Beckert

Talking about church topics and difficult doctrines can be one of the most challenging parts of being a Latter-Day Saint. We're seen as so different from other Christian religions and it's impossible to deny we're a "peculiar people." Between restored doctrines, unique culture, challenging history, and ongoing controversy with topics like race, gender, and politics, getting to an open conversation can be easier with some humility, honesty, and more than a little levity when there's room for it. Saints Unscripted has all that and more.

Saints Unscripted is a cross-platform talk show, with their main channel on YouTube, an audio version in podcast form, and a presence on other social media platforms. There are a few ongoing projects, including featured guests who help address concerns within the membership as well as from nonmember viewers. They're a nicely consistent channel with new content coming out regularly, with a variety of hosts who come and go and share their unique views and humor.

Over the life of the channel, the goals have shifted and grown. Shortly before the April 2022 session of General Conference, they shared a video explaining how their goals have shifted, and why they do what they do. In it they explained how, in the last few years, they've turned more attention to supporting their viewership as a whole – including curious nonmembers and investigators – with investigations into common questions and concerns within the church. They also made a change to provide some short content around doctrines and principles of the Gospel for those curious or just learning as new members or investigators. They do still make their jokes and (constant) television and movie references, they still stick with their (mostly) unscripted format and keep the tone of most videos lighthearted and meme friendly.

Saints Unscripted Cast photo.

That said, the target audience of Saints Unscripted are youth and young adults. This is primarily suited to the YouTube generations. This isn't your mom and dad's Sunday School lesson. These are generally bite-size, short-attention-span friendly viewing with quick cuts, bright colors, and direct honest talk. While they do address the hot topics challenging the Church and keepers of the faith, the contention levels are very low and the discussion environment is a safe one where views can differ and attacks are not

Continued on pg. 13

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By The Communications Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Youth and young adults gather at University of Arizona Institute building in Tucson.

On Sunday, May 1, 2022, over 500 youth and young adults gathered at the University of Arizona Institute of Religion in Tucson, Arizona to hear Dr. Robert C. Robbins (University of Arizona President), Rusty Bowers (Arizona Speaker of the House), Elder Clark G Gilbert (General Authority Seventy and Commissioner of Church Education for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) respond to questions about the importance of education, maintaining religious freedom and navigating political division.

Elder Jonathan S. Schmitt (General Authority Seventy for the Church of Jesus Christ) and his wife Sister Alexis U. Schmitt told those in attendance about the important decisions they made during their combined 18 years as students at the University of Arizona. They encouraged students to focus on seeking God's will for you and looking outward to serve others.

Recalling his Southern Baptist roots in Mississippi, President Robbins encouraged students to seek God's help as they consider the educational path and future that is right for them. Robbins gave students his cell phone number and invited them to call or text him if they were faced with challenges in expressing their faith or exercising their freedoms.

Left to right: Kelly G Bauer, Teresa Bauer, Alexis U. Schmitt, Jonathan S. Schmitt, Clark G. Gilbert, Robert C. Robbins, Russell "Rusty" Bowers, Donetta J. Bowers.

Speaker Bowers spoke about the importance of religious freedom and the need for respect in the current political climate, "We must seek a fulness of truth and light. We cannot restrict religious belief, but we must also respect the of conscience of others who don't believe." Bowers invited students to consider the following questions in determining how to treat others, "When they think of you in the future, what will they think? How did you treat them?"

Elder Gilbert emphasized that The Church of Jesus Christ is deeply committed to education and serves more than 1 million students worldwide through its various educational programs. He attributed the high success rates in church education programs to a foundational commitment to Christ and understanding of our true identity. "When we understand that we are literal children of God with a divine potential we can do so much more." Gilbert encouraged students, "If you are going to pursue an education, make the Lord your partner. Make your spiritual growth just as important as your secular education."

"Our goal (at the University of Arizona) is to help you realize your hopes and dreams so you can go out and make a difference," Dr Robbins said. He advised church members attending the U of A to, "be who you are and represent the values you have learned. I look forward to you becoming a vibrant part of the U of A community."

Book of Mormon Musical Celebration

Continued from pg. 11

selves:

All alone and lost, I turn another page…

I hear more than what they say when my heart opens up.

And I hear their voice speaking from the dust.

A whisper soft and warm, but it hits me like a shout.

In times of calm and storm to cast away my doubt.

Etched in gold but more precious by far.

Speaking from the dust. I hear their voice speaking from the dust.

Jacobs is extending a call for help with this new production. "We need your help! We need musicians or singers who may be able to share their talents in this show. We need people with skills in music recording, video recording, live sound, graphic art, photography, web design, and social media expertise. We are looking for people who simply want to be a part of our team in promoting this show!"

To be a part of, or to see the show in your stake or ward, call: Kyle Jacobs 480-292-0359, email: kjacobs082@gmail.com, Social Media: @brotherjacobsjams

Saints Unscripted Podcast

Continued from pg. 11

welcome.

The space they create for discussion is one of the biggest strengths of Saints Unscripted. Their strengths continue with their "Second Season," launched in June along with their revitalized branding and coming merch store. They share their content mainly through their YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/c/SaintsUnscripted), but it can also be found in audio format via the Saints Unscripted Audio, and via the same name on Instagram (@saintsunscripted), Facebook (www.facebook.com/SaintsUnscripted/), and other social media platforms by the same handle.

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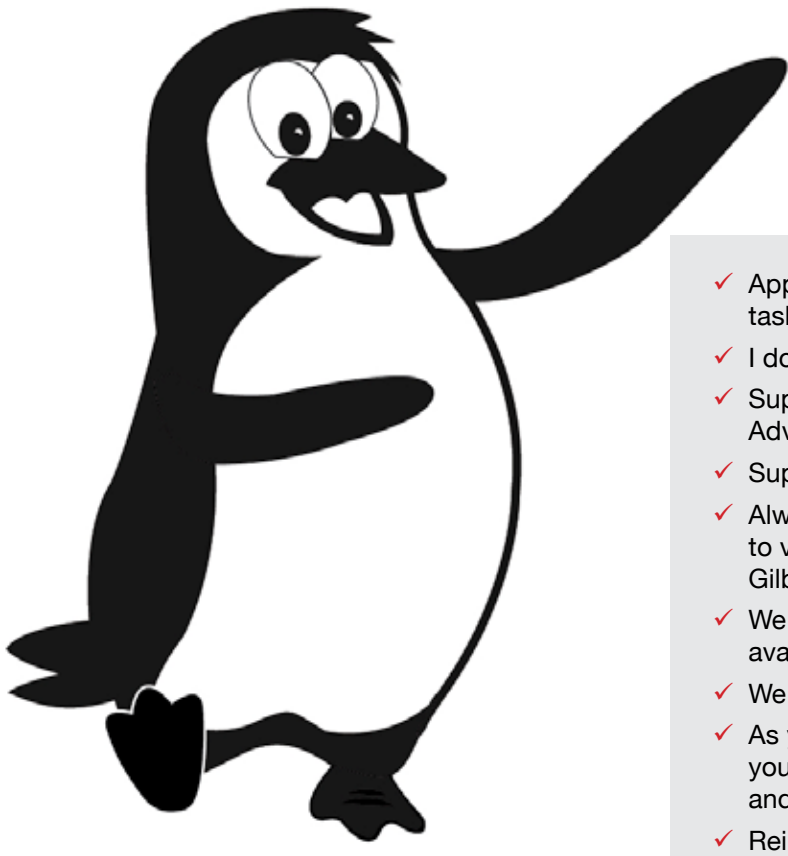

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- ✓ Support building and staffing a Crime Lab in Gilbert.
- ✓ Always remember Gilbert's Heritage! I encourage you to visit and support HD South to better understand Gilbert's history.
- ✓ We need to be a good steward of the resources available and the assets we already have.
- ✓ We need to restore courage in the Town Council.
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Were Your Ancestors Once REFUGEES?

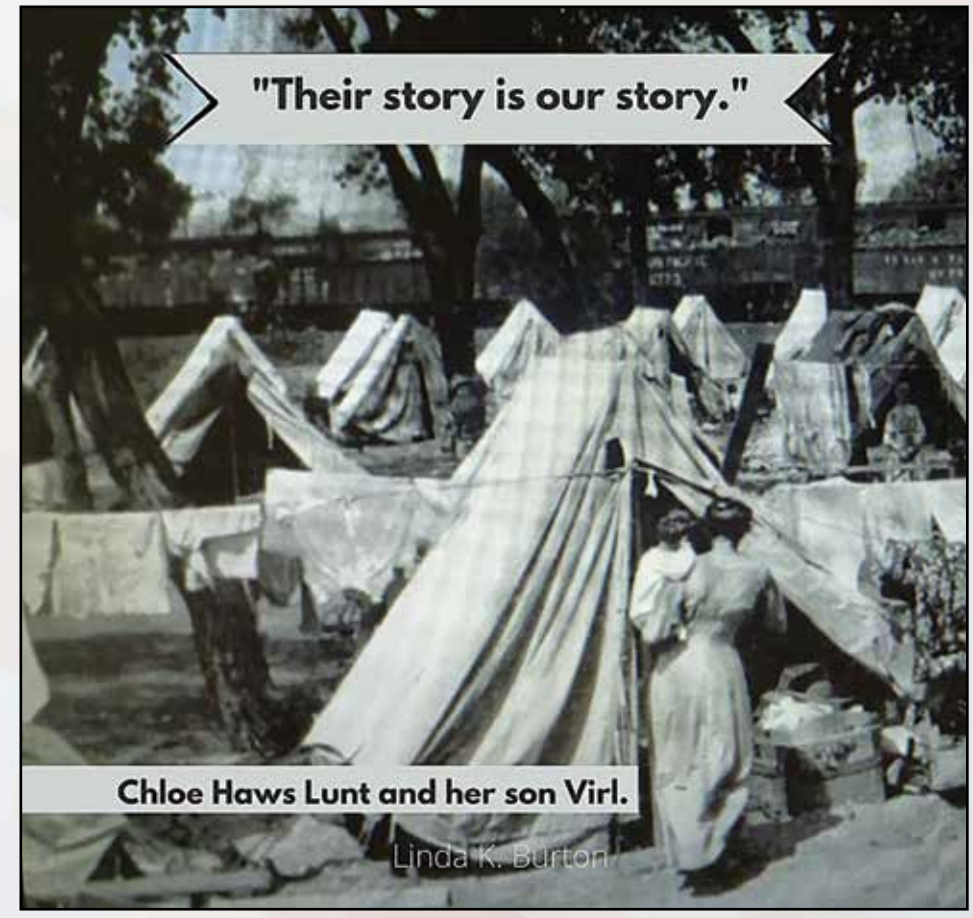
Assisting Our Church's Humanitarian Refuge Efforts

By Steven Lunt

My heart is broken as I witness the suffering of refugees as they pour out of Ukraine into neighboring countries who are overwhelmed with resource needs to provide basic necessities.

My heart is turned to the charity of others as I remember that my ancestors and the ancestors of many within our stake boundaries were once refugees themselves. Many of our ancestors fled governmental persecutions leaving behind precious homes and successful businesses in Utah and Arizona to flee to Mexico. There were countless brothers and sisters in Christ who aided them along their way. A few years later, those same refugees found themselves again at the mercy of others as they fled the war-torn region of northern Mexico. For a while, they lived in tents, wagons, and shanty villages in west Texas and southern New Mexico with the few belongings they could carry in their own hands.

We have prospered here in our little valley. But we would not be here today in our prosperity and the foundation of faith built by our ancestors without the kindness of strangers that assisted them.



The author's great-grandmother Chloe Haws Lunt carrying his grandfather Virl Lunt into a tent as a refugee living in a tent city in El Paso, Texas, nearly a century ago.

As with many of you, I have prayed for peace and blessings upon the refugees and others impacted by the conflict. As I also pondered upon ways that I could help, I remembered the counsel that has been given by our

Continued on pg. 30

Diana's Hats

Volunteer Diana Knits Hats For A New Leaf Clients

By A New Leaf

One of the many hats knit by A New Leaf volunteer Diana. Photo by A New Leaf

Diana got started helping her community nearly ten years ago when her church's humanitarian center started providing quilts and other bedding for A New Leaf's local homeless shelters.

"My faith is a major reason that I serve, and I picked A New Leaf because they do such good work right here in our community. I think it's important people serve wherever they can, but for me, that's been right here in Mesa and across the Valley. I just truly know that by serving at A New Leaf, I'm doing good."

While participating in her first donation drive, Diana knitted 16 hats for children served by A New Leaf's homeless shelters and domestic violence shelters. Since then, her drive has grown each year, from 16, to 75, to 150, to now over 250 knitted hats for children in need each year. She has even started donating other items as needed.

"I knew that I had to keep doing this, helping people served by A New Leaf became a passion for me. A few years into this, and we've grown these donation drives into a much larger community effort," says Diana. "The staff at A New Leaf can call me up and tell me they need hats, or blankets, or anything else, and I get right to work on it."

Diana is not working alone. She has built a network of generous people that work with her to meet the growing needs of the community. Her group now donates goods, makes financial donations, and does anything they can to make an impact in their local community.

But Diana wants more people to join her in helping those in need.

"I need more help to keep these donation drives growing. If you are looking for a way to serve and need help figuring out how, just contact me. I want people who are committed and willing to make an impact. I challenge you to reach out to me today if you are looking for a way to serve."

To contact Diana, visit TurnaNewLeaf.org/Diana

Scan this QR code to link to an interest form for those wanting to work with Diana.

a new leaf

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The Gospel In A WORD: VANQUISH THE Foe Today!

By Emily Jex Boyle

Recently, our children performed with fellow participants of the Millennial Choirs and Orchestras. As they sang the hymn "Hope of Israel," the charging chorus filled the concert hall.

Hope of Israel, rise in might
With the sword of truth and right;
Sound the war-cry, "Watch and pray!"
Vanquish ev'ry foe today.

These words struck a deep chord with me, especially the last line. Vanquish every foe today.

Initially uncomfortable with its boldness, I paused. Rather than retreat, I decided to be curious about discomfort and lean into it.

Accounts of animosity, violence and military action fill our screens and dinner conversations. Conflict is everywhere. Individuals with differing opinions transform from brothers to simply others.

In this climate, how do I vanquish the foe? And, how can I know if I'm properly identifying and taking down the actual foe?

These questions led me to two General Conference talks 33 years apart.

In the last General Conference, President Nelson said, "My call today, my dear brothers and sisters, is to end the conflicts that are raging in your heart, your home, and your life. Bury any and all inclinations to hurt others — whether those inclinations be a temper, a sharp tongue, or resentment for someone who has hurt you. … We are followers of the Prince of Peace. Now more than ever, we need the peace only He can bring. How can we expect peace to exist in the world when we are not individually seeking peace and harmony?"

Photo by iStockphoto

Accounts of animosity, violence and military action fill our screens and even dinner conversations. Conflict is everywhere. Individuals with differing opinions transform from brothers to simply others. Feelings of enmity seemed to stand in contrast challenging what Hugh Nibley describes as the, "imagery of the Atonement" which is the embrace.

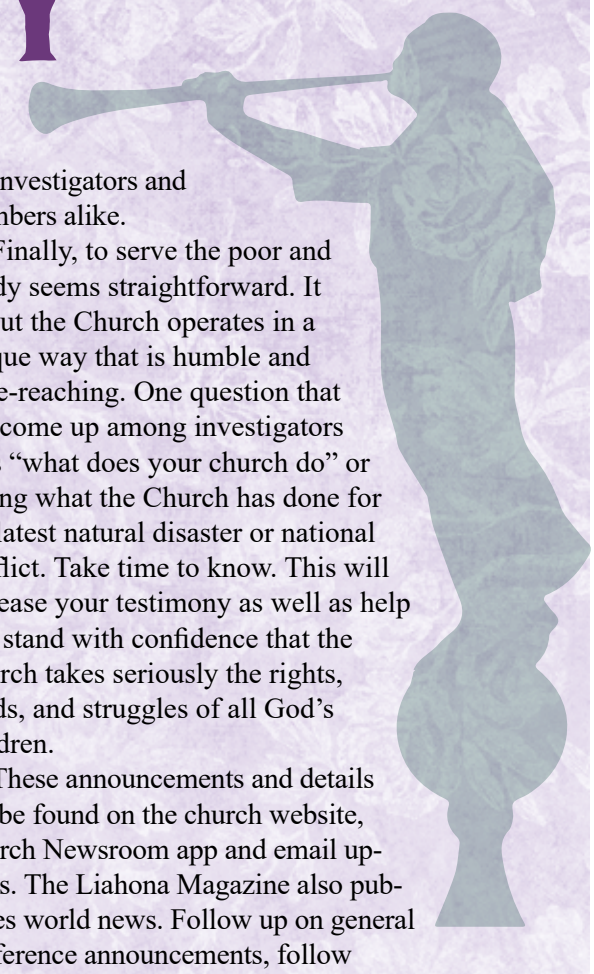
Years earlier, President Ezra Taft Benson in his well-known General Conference talk, "Beware of Pride" warned of a not always clear but ever-present danger. "Pride," he taught, "is a very misunderstood sin…most of us think of pride as self-centeredness, conceit, boastfulness, arrogance, or haugh-

Continued on pg. 28

PREP YOUR MISSIONARY

Expand Your Knowledge, Expand Your Foundation

By Allison Beckert



A missionary is a representative of Jesus Christ and of His Church. They are teachers, preachers, and servants to God and His children in their area of service. While the focus is sharing the gospel, as a representative of Christ, one way to expand your testimony and capacity to serve is to explore your role – and the Church's – in the wider world. Proclaim the Gospel is only one pillar of the Four-fold mission of the church, all of which can contribute to your success as a servant of God.

The darling of sharing the gospel is the full-time proselyting missionary. While this is the focus of a full-time teaching mission, recent instruction from the general and area authorities has turned the responsibility of finding, sharing, teaching, and fellowshipping investigators primarily to Church members. This pillar also highlights a unique aspect of sharing our faith. We as members are to proclaim the gospel. It is not our role to change minds, hearts, or habits of anyone else. That is the special domain of the Spirit and the individual's relationship with Christ.

Photo by Church Media Library

Family history is a draw for some investigators who have an interest.

It may surprise some new missionaries to realize companionships are very involved with their assigned wards and branches. Wards benefit from active earnest missionaries who understand their role in the second pillar of the mission of the Church: perfecting the saints. One thing you can do to prepare is to take time to explore what the leadership has put in place to help build up the Saints. The Church has several continuing education programs, including the popular Self-Reliance programs, and continuing institute and seminary programs for youth and young adults. You can serve your members as well by staying up to date on the regular speaking events by general authorities – online and in person during regional visits.

While the focus of a mission can varies by call, you can share the power of the third pillar of the mission of the church: redeem the dead. Stay knowledgeable about the developments in this area, as the Spirit is actively turning living hearts toward their ancestors. Keep up with temple news and announcements for your area to more easily share if questions arise. Within wards and stakes, there are activities or events which can be a big draw for investigators and members alike.

Finally, to serve the poor and needy seems straightforward. It is, but the Church operates in a unique way that is humble and wide-reaching. One question that can come up among investigators asks "what does your church do" or asking what the Church has done for the latest natural disaster or national conflict. Take time to know. This will increase your testimony as well as help you stand with confidence that the Church takes seriously the rights, needs, and struggles of all God's children.

These announcements and details can be found on the church website, Church Newsroom app and email updates. The Liahona Magazine also publishes world news. Follow up on general conference announcements, follow general authorities online, and generally be a fan of your Church. This is especially important leading up to serving a full-time mission and being the contact point for your investigators and members.

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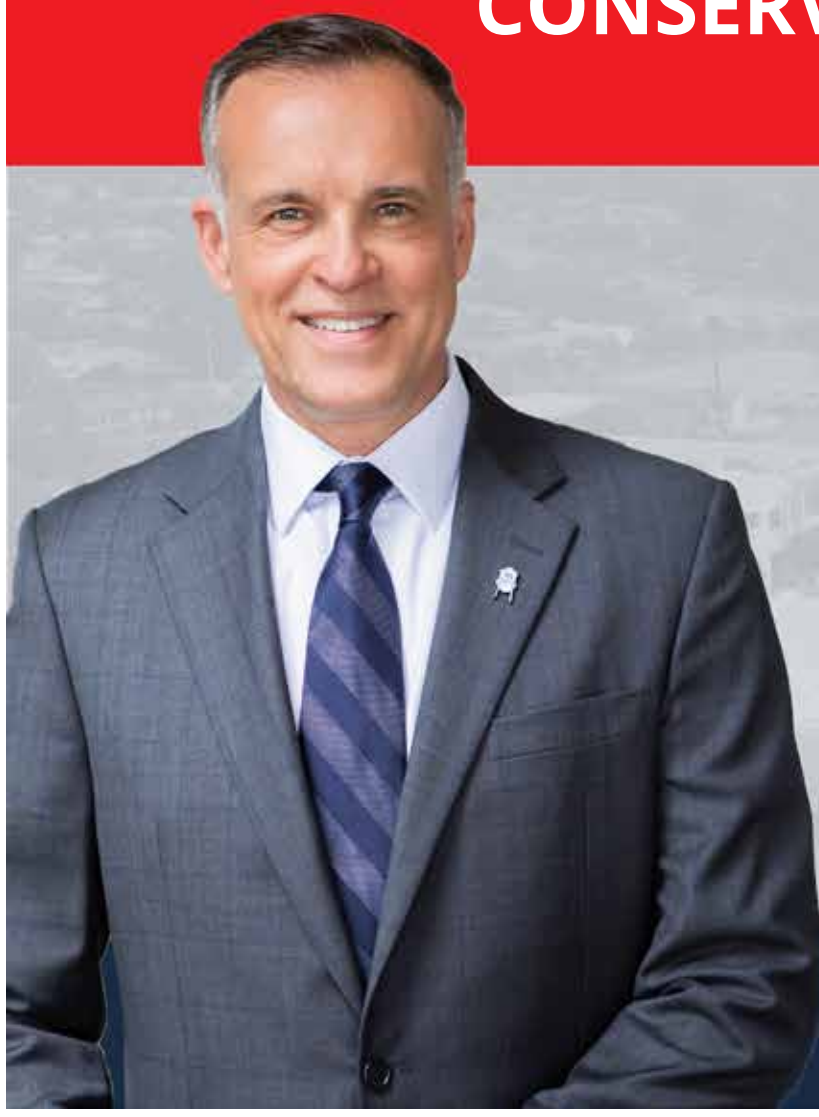

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Young In Spirit, Wise & Willing To Work

Senior Missionaries Needed In Arizona

By Nancy Rasmussen

The worldwide need for Senior Service Missionaries (SSM) is 41,000. Currently, 2,000 seniors serve a variety of service missions right here in Arizona. Still, in the North America Southwest Area of the church, about 50 percent of senior service mission opportunities remain unfilled.

Seniors wishing to serve but who find relocation impossible or impractical, should consider the variety of at-home choices available. Senior Service Missions are available to couples and single brothers and sisters 26 years and older.

Phoenix Group Senior Missionary Coordinator Elder Steve Miller who serves with his wife, Ginny, explained, "… I believe we can safely say that Arizona-wide, there are a thousand opportunities available. Family Search alone has over 6,500 Senior Service Missionaries worldwide, most serving from their home. Pathway also has large numbers of Senior Service Missionaries serving from their homes via Zoom as well as those who have face-to-face classes each week. The church expects that Pathway may eventually have two million students worldwide. Each group of students will need a Pathway couple to facilitate their classes. Future opportunities for Senior Service Missionaries are almost endless."

Currently there is a demand in Arizona for SSM with Deseret Industries, Employment Resource Centers, Bishop's Storehouses and more. Senior Service Missionaries serve at the six Arizona temples, and there are currently opportunities at each temple.

During the October 2004 General Conference, while a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, President Russell M. Nelson spoke of his love for senior missionaries. He said, "When we think of missionaries, we generally picture in our minds young men with shirts and ties and young women dressed modestly. But along with them are marvelous senior missionaries who have answered the pleadings of prophets and apostles…I express gratitude for our senior missionaries. They are young in spirit, wise, and willing to work."

Sister Stephanie Percival greets Deseret Industries Associate John Crugar before his "Getting-to-Know-You" interview at the Glendale Employment Resource Center. Missionaries conduct GTKY interviews with job seekers to help them document their individual skills, traits, background, education level and other factors so they can create a plan to achieve their job search goals.

Glendale Employment Resource Center Coordinator Rick Ball discusses job search skills goals with Deseret Industries Associate Jamis Hendricks. Elder Ball has served as an Employment Services Senior Service Missionary for two years including both virtual and ERC service.

Elder Rick Ball is a Senior Service Missionary who has served two self-reliance missions over the past three years and currently serves as the Glendale Employment Resource Services Center Coordinator. He works at the center with two Senior Service Missionary couples, Elder John and Sister Toni Roadruck, and Elder Michael and Sister Stephanie Percival. Elder Ball explains, "Together we provide resume writing, interviewing and other job search preparation skills training to individuals who sign up for help on the church Employment Services website, or walk into the center. While we are not a job-finder service, we prepare job seekers with the skills necessary to present themselves to employers in the most prepared and confident way, with the goal of receiving a job offer in their chosen field."

All service missionaries must be temple worthy. Senior Service Missionaries serve at church operations where the opportunities are many, varied and include both local and virtual assignments.

For more information about Arizona Senior Service Missionary opportunities log on to https://seniormissionary.churchofjesuschrist.org, or contact Elder Steve and Sister Ginny Miller Senior Missionary Coordinators-Phoenix Group, SMC-Phoenixazgroup@ churchofjesuschrist.org, or phone 602-708-0152/602-739-2546.

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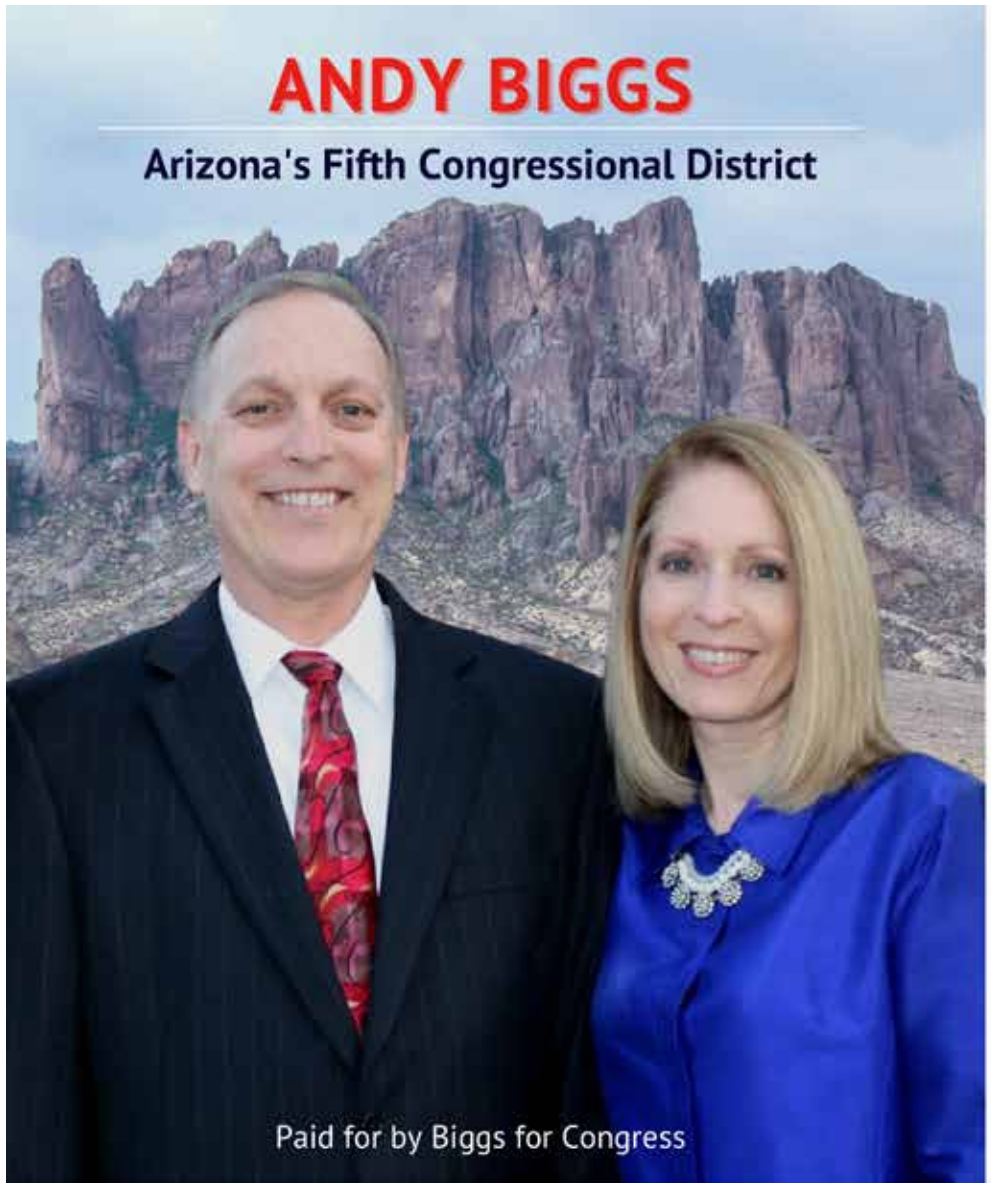

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Come Follow Me

This article supports the readings in the manual titled *"Come, Follow Me—For Individuals and Families"* scheduled in July and August, 2022, comprising 2 Kings 2 through Ecclesiastes.

Come, Covenant With Him!

By Robin Finlinson

Much of the Old Testament is about the children of Israel engaged in three things:

1) Covenanting with the Lord in a dedicated temple setting (inside a permanent or portable structure, next to a pillar representing an authorized channel and enduring strength, or on a mountain).

2) Alternating between periods of keeping or rejecting covenants—often depending on the level of their political leader's righteousness.

3) Being taught through the law of Moses how to eventually recognize the promised Messiah as Jesus Christ.

Because they chose idols over the Lord, the children of Israel were scattered (Nehemiah 1:8). The whereabouts of most tribes became lost to the record keepers of Judah—including the lost tribe of Joseph, which would have the charge of gathering a remnant of each tribe centuries later.

The scattering is not merely geographical. They are scattered about with every ideology imaginable. Gathering them, therefore, is especially significant in the spiritual sense—back to trusting in and covenanting with the Lord.

The terms "false gods" and "idolatry" refer to an object, practice or ideology, for example, that pulls us off the path toward God, our Creator. A common ancient practice was that of parents allowing their children to "pass through the fire." They sacrificed them as burnt offerings, as Kings Ahaz and Manasseh did to their own sons (2 Kings 16:3; 21:4).

Bearing false witness was prevalent in King Hezekiah's day. But the besmirched king's faith in the Lord was unyielding, and enemies of his people were miraculously decimated (2 Kings 18; 19).

King Josiah reinstated the Passover and directed his people to repair the temple. Standing by a pillar, he led them back under covenant with the Almighty (2 Kings 22; 23).

When Christ came to earth, He put the Saints under a new binding covenant or "testament." That contract still involved redemption if all commandments were kept. Sacrifice was still required, because it sanctifies and seals covenants. It would include "a broken and a contrite heart" that King David had mentioned long before (Psalm 51:17).

But it no longer required the shedding of animal blood or sins being ceremonially placed upon animals that were then expelled, which represented Christ's death and Atonement of sin for all mankind.

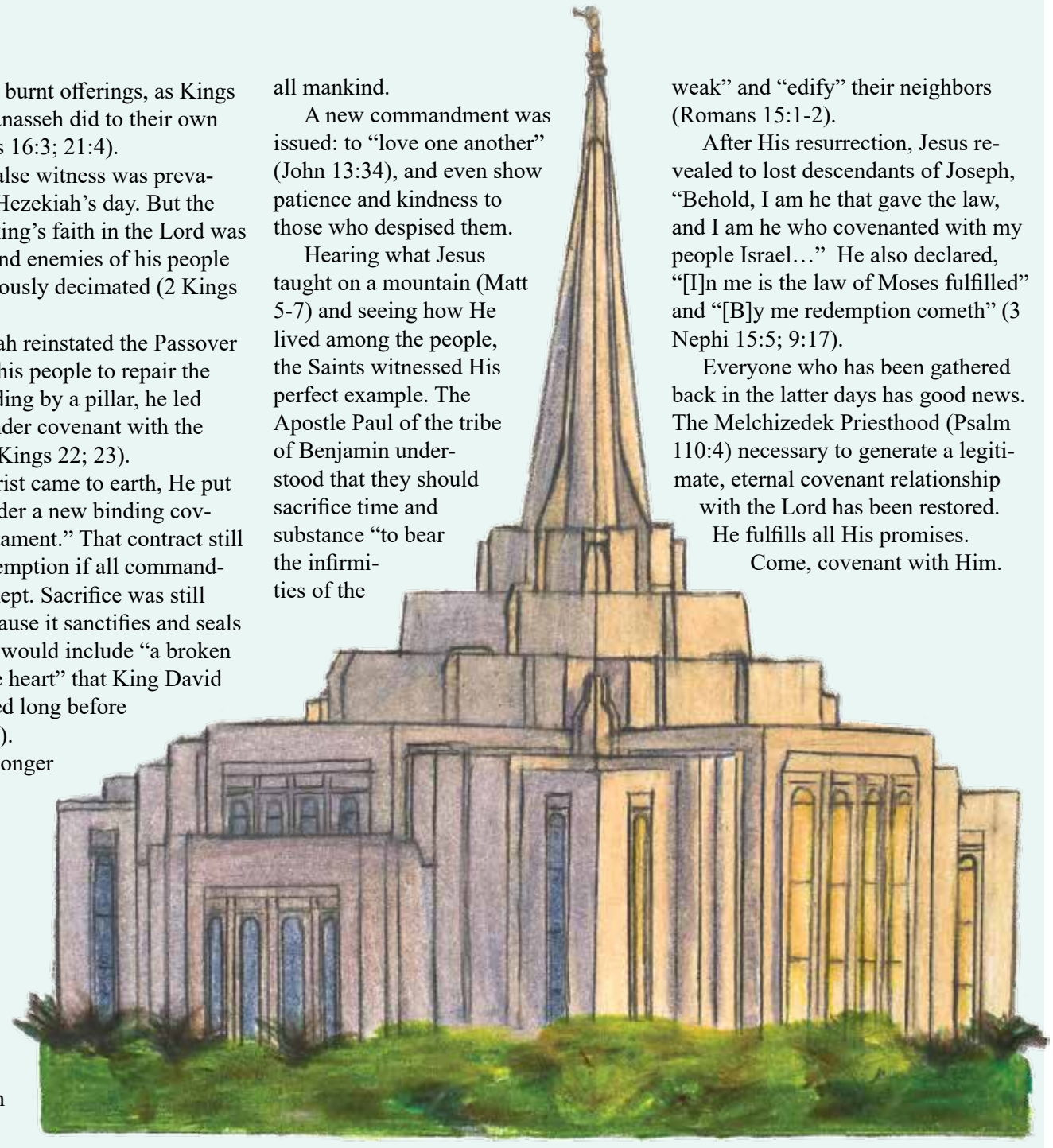
A new commandment was issued: to "love one another" (John 13:34), and even show patience and kindness to those who despised them.

Hearing what Jesus taught on a mountain (Matt 5-7) and seeing how He lived among the people, the Saints witnessed His perfect example. The Apostle Paul of the tribe of Benjamin understood that they should sacrifice time and substance "to bear the infirmities of the weak" and "edify" their neighbors (Romans 15:1-2).

After His resurrection, Jesus revealed to lost descendants of Joseph, "Behold, I am he that gave the law, and I am he who covenanted with my people Israel…" He also declared, "[I]n me is the law of Moses fulfilled" and "[B]y me redemption cometh" (3 Nephi 15:5; 9:17).

Everyone who has been gathered back in the latter days has good news. The Melchizedek Priesthood (Psalm 110:4) necessary to generate a legitimate, eternal covenant relationship with the Lord has been restored. He fulfills all His promises.

Come, covenant with Him.



Drawing of the Gilbert, Arizona Temple by Tanner Finlinson, age 15

The most significant work of the latter days is that of gathering scattered Israel.

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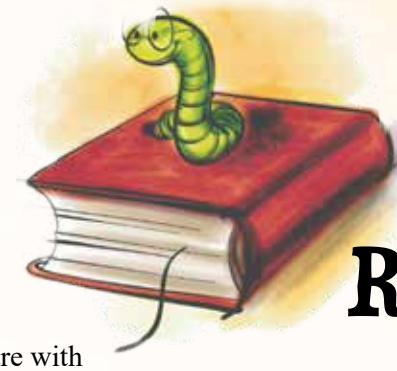
Heart-to-Heart with Abagaba



Beehive BOOK REVIEW

By Cindy R. Williams

Looking for a book to bring a smile to your face to read this summer? The book "Heart-to-Heart with Abagaba" has it all.

Celebrate sheer happiness from the brilliant and unique view of the world through the eyes of children. Celebrate their reverence and irreverence, their pure logic, joyful optimisms through a unique looking glass. Kick off your shoes and sit back and reflect on the lessons we learn from our little ones.

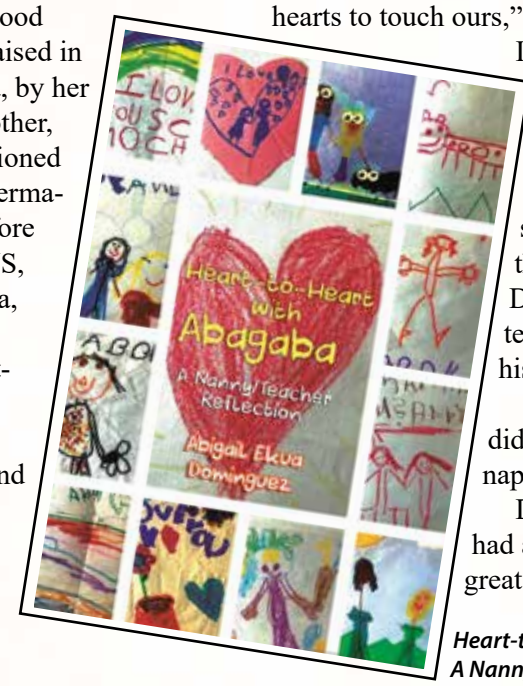
Photo courtesy Abigail Ekua Dominguez

Author Abigail Ekua Dominguez.

Abigail Ekua Dominguez is the amazing woman behind the book. Dubbed "Abagaba" by a two-year old learning how to say her name, Abigail has a unique childhood herself. Born and raised in Ghana, West Africa, by her father and grandmother, she lived and vacationed in London, Italy, Germany and Norway before emigrating to the US, and landing in Mesa, Arizona.

She shares heart-warming, often humorous insights into the world around us from her many years' experience as a Nanny and Teacher.

After taking a class on Child Family Advocacy from BYU-I, Abigail wanted to share with the world how incredible young children are. "Engaging in conversations with them allows their pure hearts to touch ours," says Abigail.



Heart-to-Heart with Abagaba, A Nanny/Teacher Reflection.

In a story titled "Great-Good" Abigail writes,

I was feeding Dash's little sister Esme in the kitchen when Dash walked in after waking up from his afternoon nap.

I asked, "Dash, did you have a good nap or a great nap?"

Dash replied, "I had a good one and a great one."

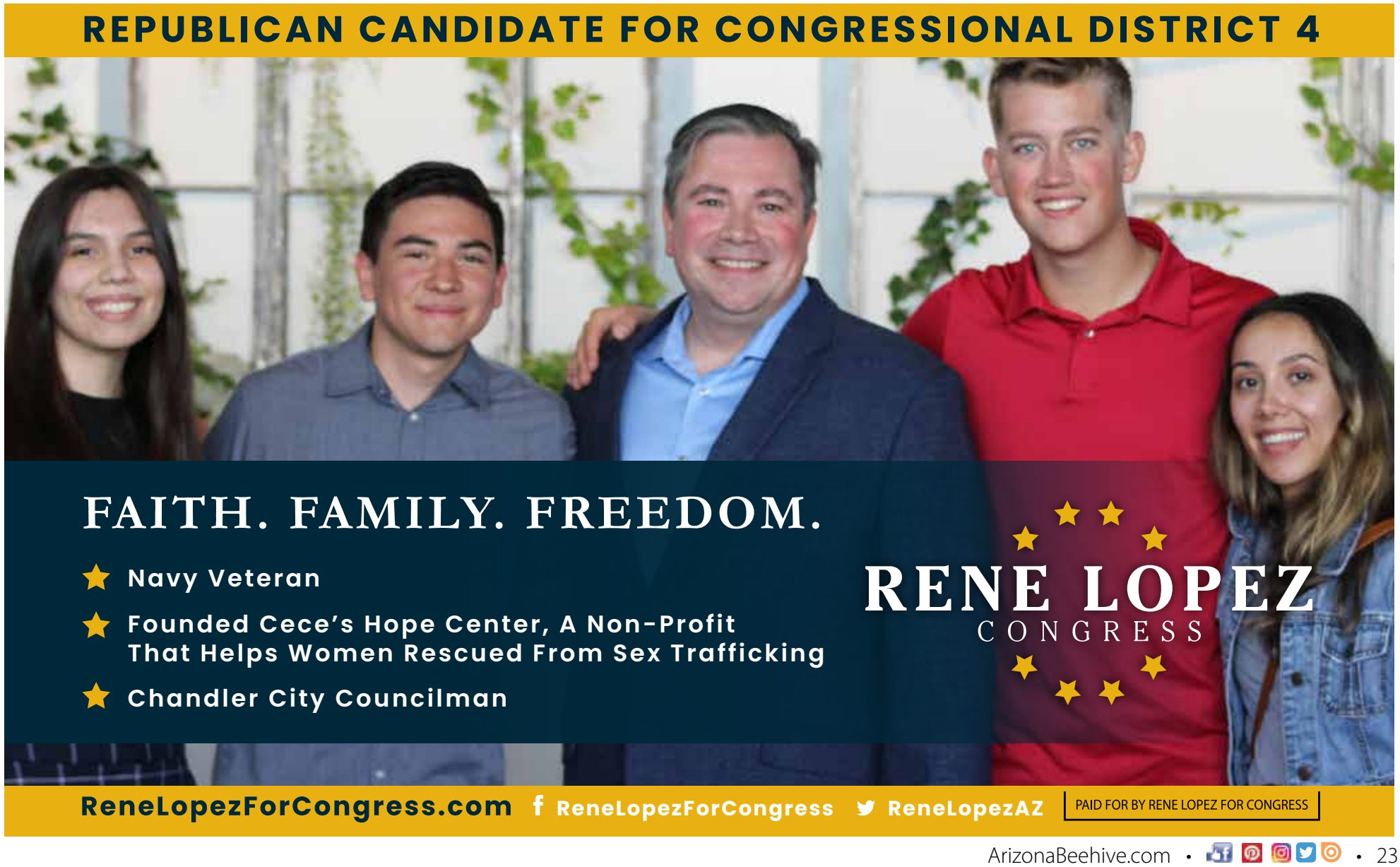
He thought about it for a quick second and said, "Great-good. Aha! It was a great-good one."

Absolutely. Why settle for good when you can zestfully express feelings of great-good all in one?"

The book illustrates how children are innovative with a sense of interest and wonder, a sense of play and sheer delight for nature and their love for other humans, just like Abigail herself.

Abigail's second book, "My Mom's Incredible Voice" will be released Thanksgiving, 2022. She describes this book as her story about "a mother and daughter's separation in her early years, a reunion after almost four decades, and a rekindled love story between the daughter's parents."

"Heart-to-Heart with Abagaba" is available on Amazon.



Finding Hope after Incarceration

Oak Branch Created In The Phoenix Arizona East Stake

By Katherine Ogden

A unique branch has recently been formed in the Phoenix Arizona East Stake. Named the Oak Branch, it was created for adults returning from incarceration. Oak Branch is only the 2nd branch of its kind to exist in the LDS church system. The original was located in Utah, but has since closed.

Outside transitional help for those released from prison remains a longstanding focus. An active support system within the branches of the prison system exists in the form of mentors who work in detention centers, jails, Federal and State prisons. Mentors are a great resource to help individuals with housing, food and finding work once released. But transitional help with spiritual support is not fulfilled by the mentor program.

Spearheaded by Dale Alvarez, chairman of the LDS AZ Corrections committee, the idea of a post-incarceration branch was first presented to Elder Lee M. Shumway, who took the idea to Area Authority Elder Paul B. Piper. The First Presidency ultimately approved the plan which was implemented by President C. W. Ross. The branch serves adults 18+ returning to society after having been in the prison system.

Twenty branches currently exist within the Arizona prison system itself. Khyl Powell, who served from 2013 to 2016 as a Branch President for the Poston Butte branch in the Eyman Prison complex has been called as the Oak Branch President. He is assisted by First Counselor David Schnepf, Second Counselor Gary Bryce and Executive Secretary Dale Cheshier.

Photo courtesy of Lorrain Powell

The Oak Branch Presidency, Left to right, Executive Secretary Dale Cheshier, 1st Counselor David Schnepf, Branch President Khyl Powell and 2nd Counselor Gary Bryce.

Oak Branch Meeting House. Photo courtesy of Lorrain Powell

"We want to spread the word as quickly as possible, so that the word can get to the people who really need to hear this information," says President Powell. "The more people hear that about it,

Continued on pg. 25

1000 WORDS WORTH

By Lynn Tolman

Have you ever looked at an old picture and wondered "Who are those people?" Then, as you look closer you try to figure out where they were when the picture was taken. Other desired details come to mind, such as: Where was that beautiful old house? Look at those stunning dresses! Who is the man in the top hat or the one in the bowtie? Why did they all look as they were having a mug shot taken!? These are the questions of photos. Stories can be the answers.

My dad passed away in December of 2020. After his passing we were looking at his familysearch.org entries and found one lone picture of him dressed up as a pirate. The image had no title, no date, and no place at which it was taken. We didn't know anything about the circumstances of the picture. I showed the shot to my brother and wonderfully he filled in all of the details. In 2016 my brother, sister-in-law and my parents went on a Disney cruise. Soon after leaving port, a hurricane came through Florida and caused the ship to be out to sea for an extra four or five days. One of the events on the ship was "pirate night" and my dad dressed to the hilt. After talking with my brother, we were able to add narrative to the picture. Without my brother's recollection, the story of the image would have remained a mystery.

Aarg, Matey! The author's father dressed as a pirate.

It is important that we add those narratives to the stories as we write them, and to the pictures as we take them, so that the true details will not be lost forever.

One family picture we have in our family with such a narrative is of my parents wedding reception. They were married in 1949 just after my dad returned from serving in World War II. The picture shows their receiving line with my mother clearly wearing a yellow wedding dress. They were married in the temple! So, what's up with the yellow dress?

I finally asked. My mother explained, "Well, everyone had a white dress so I didn't want a white one." She also stated that everyone had a wedding cake and she didn't want one. So, after wearing her sister's white dress to the temple, she donned her yellow dress for the reception. In that yellow dress she served chicken salad sandwiches, chips and olives, with date nut bars for dessert. As we talked, we added other details that filled in the gaps.

Our stories can be long or short. The length is not the important thing. The important thing is the details - the who, what, where, when, why and how.

I have a picture of a nephew with his head visible inside of an arcade claw crane machine. I won't give any details. Think about the things you want to know about that picture and then think about some of those fun pictures you have that need stories. Now get busy and give those stories, and associated photos, some life!

Family HISTORY

The author's mother wearing her yellow "wedding" dress.

Finding Hope After Incarceration
Continued from pg. 24

the more we can help people. Like Christ with the ninety-nine and one, we want to make sure no one feels lost. The principle reason, besides attendance, is to receive the blessings of the atonement. If you don't feel welcome in your ward or branch, how can you get these?"

Oak Branch's first sacrament meeting was held on April 10th, 2022. Currently, only Sacrament Meeting is held. But it is hoped that very soon enough attendees will be available to start Relief Society and Priesthood meetings. "A few members might not be able to attend yet, as they have not yet finished certain classes or received permission from their probation officers, but we're able to minister to them by visiting with them in their homes," explains President Powell.

Located at 2222 North 40th Street, Phoenix, AZ, 85008, the branch meets on Sunday at 2:30pm. While the branch's geographic boundaries are the same as the Phoenix Arizona East Stake, its "outreach" boundaries encompass all of Maricopa and Pinal Counties. The branch is supported by church service missionaries as well as service volunteers. Contact President Powell at 480-813-0627 for more information or volunteer opportunities.

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Like Dragons Did They
FIGHT
Mastering Self-Mastery

By Tony Gutiérrez

Like Dragons Did They Fight
A SYNERGY OF ETERNAL PRINCIPLES AND ACCURATE
FOR PERSONAL SELF MASTERY
Like Dragons Did They Fight
MAURICE W. HARKER, CMHC
Maurice Harker's book, Like Dragons Did They Fight.

"The stigma that accompanies the struggle for sexual self-mastery can actually prevent people from attaining it." This was a message presented by therapist Maurice Harker at a recent fireside hosted by the Pioneer Ward in Gilbert.

Harker is the founder of Life Changing Services, a mental health counseling agency based out of Farmington, Utah, and is the author of the book "Like Dragons Did They Fight - A Synergy of Eternal Principles and Accurate Service for Personal Self-Mastery."

"The same process the brain goes through when you commit to going to the gym and you don't is the exact same psychological process as someone who commits to not viewing pornography and then they do," said Harker. "If you want to be of service to those who are dealing with sexual self-mastery issues, things including pornography, masturbation, crossing the line when it comes to their relationships with others, the most important thing you can do is understand what it feels like to behave against your own value system. As long as you think you are different from them, they will not value your thoughts and feelings."

While many in the mental health field may wish to deny the influence of Satan, Harker said it's important to recognize that Satan is a military strategist with uncounted years of experience studying human psychology. During the fireside, members of the Life Changing Services team detailed Satan's strategies and the importance to know them in order to fight them off.

Author and Speaker Maurice Harker.

Seth Bowman, a member of Harker's team, explained that by leading people to feel overwhelmed and stressed Satan is able to loosen the connection between the frontal lobe of the brain — where the values are stored — to the midbrain — where the "fight, flight, freeze" reaction is found.

"If Satan can get us to this place, he can get us to do a lot of different things that we wouldn't usually do," explains Bowman. "He disconnects us from our values."

This is done by a "flash" — some quick and unnoticeable external influence — that then leads to a "chemical dump" that elicit pre-programmed responses in the brain. "These chemicals can last for a long time in our brains, and if we don't react to them, they just keep getting worse," he said. "With training, we're able to recognize those things happening earlier. We're able to recognize when the first flashes happen, when those feelings start to come, and we're able to react much earlier. And we're able to use specific drills and warrior chemistry to be able to counteract these effects that are going on in our brain, to pull ourselves out."

Encouraging the use of President Russell M. Nelson's "Discover, Plan, Act, Reflect" pattern for growth — what Harker referred to as a DPAR — individuals are able to move forward.

While it's normal to check on teens' progress in sports, music or other talents, there's still a stigma against talking to children about sexual self-mastery, lamented Harker. He then noted that while it's perfectly normal for teens to have regular check-ups with their doctors or dentists, then why would it be a problem to have a mental health check-up? He also encouraged people struggling with sexual self-mastery, teens and adults, to speak with their bishops for spiritual refinement and access to resources.

"A middle child of a potato-farming family in Idaho could plug into the same power that Moses used to part the Red Sea, because I have the same qualifications Moses had — which were, 'I'm inadequate. I'm not enough. I can't win the war against Satan by myself.' But even this little nobody can play a role in doing miracles," Harker said, noting that everybody has access to the Spirit and to resources. "The power is there. The resources are there. Those that be with us are more than those that be with them."

Bowman was bothered in the past when an Elder's Quorum president told him nobody would be willing to talk about struggles with self-mastery. "That's why nobody's getting help, because we're too afraid to talk about it because there's too much shame around it."

Visit lifechangingservices.org/like-dragons-did-they-fight-free-download/ for more information and a free download of Maurice Harker's book.

Laughter is Ageless

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Helen, Watermark Resident

Barbara (left) and Helen, Watermark residents

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The Watermark at Morrison Ranch

What's Cooking?

By The Arizona Beehive Magazine

STRAWBERRY BASIL FREEZER JAM

Sweet, Savory, Summery Jam!

There was a time when my entire recipe repertoire consisted of ramen, hot dogs, and peanut butter and jelly. Now I've got a couple of fussy foodies and a teen just a few years shy of beginning her own ramen/hot dog/peanut butter and jelly regimen. How to level up my soon-to-be independent daughter's cooking skills while keeping her siblings' simple tastes satisfied? Easy: strawberry basil freezer jam. It's a lot sweet, a little savory, and summer in a jar for our family. This jam, a take on the classic Kraft SURE-JELL recipe, is like a great pair of jeans. You can dress it up with wafers and fancy white cheese, or you can dress it down in a good ol' fashioned PB & J. It's perfect for all palates!

Easy, fresh ingredients make strawberry basil freezer jam a hit.

Photos by Merry Gordon

INGREDIENTS & SUPPLIES:

- 1 pound of organic strawberries (enough for about 2 cups mashed)
- 4 cups granulated sugar
- 1 package (1.75 ounces) fruit pectin such as SURE-JELL
- A handful of fresh basil (enough for ¼ cup, finely chopped)
- About 6-8 small Ball jars or other freezer jam containers

DIRECTIONS:

STEP 1: Thoroughly wash and dry your jars, as well as your strawberries and basil.

STEP 2: Finely chop the basil and set it aside.

STEP 3: Hull your strawberries. We just use a straw, but if you've got a fancy strawberry tool, go for it!

STEP 4: Mash strawberries and measure 2 cups into a large bowl.

STEP 5: Mix 4 cups of granulated sugar into mashed strawberries. Mix enough to moisten all the sugar and combine ingredients. Let stand for about 10-15 minutes, and then mix again.

STEP 6: Add fruit pectin to ¾ cup of water and bring to a boil on high heat in a small saucepan. Stir continuously. Once pectin and water combination are boiling, allow to boil for 1 minute, then remove from heat. Keep stirring!

STEP 7: Now, stir your pectin mix into your sugared strawberries. Stir for anywhere from 3-5 minutes to make sure that your sugar is dissolved, and pectin mix is thoroughly blended.

STEP 8: Allow the jam to cool for a few minutes, and then add in your chopped basil. Mix gently.

STEP 9: Pour jam into freezer containers but allow them to sit at room temperature for 6-8 hours before refrigerating or freezing.

LOVE

By Robin Finlinson

Thy Neighbor as Thyself

A recent event titled "Love Thy Neighbor as Thyself" gathered members of two churches—Sun Valley Community Church and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—plus several members of the Casteel High School football team to serve people with various needs.

The event took place in the gymnasium of Legacy Traditional School in southeast Chandler, a venue with ample room for projects benefitting numerous local nonprofits and senior centers. For five hours, the volunteers were welcome to spend as much time as they wanted on pre-organized projects of their choosing.

Many volunteers prepared grocery bags that were then used by other volunteers to weave plarn - woven plastic bags - mats for people experiencing homelessness. Approximately 450 bags are required to create a single mat! The non-profit 2Fish & 5Loaves received the finished products.

Inspirational cards were created for AZCEND and are now being given to seniors living alone to brighten their day. Some volunteers flattened donated grocery bags to be used in AZCEND's food bank.

Three separate projects supported Cultivate Goodness. Port pillows were sewn for the comfort of chemotherapy patients. An array of pre-packaged snacks was assembled into baggies to be given to homeless individuals. St. Patrick's Day cards were made as part of goodie bags later delivered to the Mesa Police Department, Meals on Wheels, and cancer patients at Mayo Clinic and MD Anderson.

Scraps of soap, donated by a local soap company, were cut and placed into Ziploc bags. Many were immediately included in hygiene kits for Dsquared Homes for the Homeless. Well over 1,500 additional cut scraps are now ready to be inserted into future kits. Donated clothing was sorted to help with its distribution to foster children through Helen's Hope Chest. Fidget quilts were sewn for people suffering from Alzheimer's so they could be distributed to senior centers, including a remote center in Winslow with Native American clients.

The event was organized by Lori Neff, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She also represents justserve.org, a website created and maintained by the Church to connect people who would like to volunteer in some way with multiple service oriented opportunities.

Ecclesiastical leaders of the two churches, Pastor Brett Humphrey of Sun Valley Community Church and Stake President Troy Hansen of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, were among approximately 200 volunteers.

Most of the above-mentioned nonprofits (and myriad more) have projects posted at justserve.org. Everyone interested in finding volunteer opportunities—either local or remote—is welcome to visit that website.

WHAT WERE THE RESULTS?

801 Complete Snack Bags

470 Hygiene Kits

226 Inspirational Cards

154 Port Pillows

20 Fidget Quilts

8 Plarn Mats

1 Truckload Of Children's Clothing

Photo by Robin Finlinson

Stake President Troy Hansen (center) and Pastor Brett Humphrey (right) observe the progress of women sewing port pillows for cancer patients.

Vanquish the Foe of Peace
Continued from pg. 17

tiness. All of these are elements of the sin but the heart, or core, is still missing. The central feature of pride is enmity…[it] means 'hatred toward, hostility to, or a state of opposition.'...Pride is a damning sin in the true sense of that word. It limits or stops progression."

How do I vanquish the foe today? I can follow President Nelson's call to vanquish the foe by recognizing, and intently seeking to end, conflicts as they surface in my own heart.

Opposition continues to be a great teacher. Conflict is inevitable but contention is a choice. I can learn more about the powerful, bold love of the Savior as I learn to recognize my role in the conflict of life.

How do I identify the foe? I can remember President Benson's counsel to watch for enmity, the core feature to the "great stumbling block of Zion." I can also apply the prophetic antidote for pride: humility--meekness, submissiveness.

Hugh Nibley writes, "This is the imagery of the Atonement, the embrace." Nephi eloquently describes this image when he writes, "The Lord hath redeemed my soul from hell; I have beheld his glory, and I am encircled about eternally in the arms of his love." (2 Ne. 1:15.)

This is how the Savior vanquishes the foe. This is how we can too.

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Were Your Ancestors Refugees?
Continued from pg. 15

church leaders when disaster has occurred closer to home.

In a 2017 letter concerning relief efforts for Hurricane Harvey in Texas, Elder C. Dale Willis, Jr., the North American Southwest Area Seventy, counseled, "Our time and our resources are too precious to waste. There are so many stories from past disaster relief efforts of self-initiated collections of donated goods by individuals and relief society units that have not met the current needs. In some cases, members were turned away with what they collected and in other cases the unnecessary goods were discarded to make room for the things that were really needed."

While the current aid needed may not be for our next-door neighbor, Texas, the counsel is still pertinent today. The parable of the Good Samaritan, who not only provided on-the-ground support but used his money to pay the innkeeper for needed relief, was an answer to the question, "And who is my neighbor?"

Our church leaders have extended an invitation to provide relief for our global neighbors, "Anyone wishing to provide support for the Church's effort to aid those in need is encouraged to donate to the Church's Humanitarian Fund."

I am eternally grateful to those who truly understood Christ's words, "For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in (Matthew 25:35)." My life and the lives of my ancestors were blessed and enriched by the kindness of strangers. All of us can look into our hearts and pockets and find a way to share some peace and relief to those who have nothing.

For more information about helping refugees see: April 2016 General Conference, "Refuge From the Storm" Refuge from the Storm https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/.../refuge-from-the...

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VALLEY TEMPLE SCHEDULES

Gilbert Arizona, Mesa Arizona and Phoenix Arizona Temples are Returning to Normal Operations!

Based on First Presidency direction, these temples are gradually lifting pandemic-related restrictions.

- Appointments for proxy ordinances are encouraged. Patrons without appointments are also welcome, but may be asked to wait for an opportunity to participate. To schedule or modify a proxy appointment, visit your temple's information at https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/temples
- Appointments are required for members to receive their own ordinances (endowment and sealing). Call or email the temple to schedule this type of appointment.
- Masks may be required depending on local government restrictions.
- Patrons are encouraged to bring their own temple clothing.
- Family name cards may be printed at the temple and cards may be returned upon request. You will receive a FamilySearch notification to confirm that the ordinance was recorded.
- All government guidelines will be observed.
- Please contact the temple for more information or if you have special circumstances or needs.

Please check https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/temples regularly for updates.

Gilbert Arizona Temple

3301 S. Greenfield Rd, Gilbert, AZ, 85297

(1) 480-822-5000

2022 Temple Closures

Saturday, 1 Oct 2022
Monday, 3 Oct 2022 - Monday, 17 Oct 2022
Wednesday, 23 Nov 2022 - Thursday, 24 Nov 2022
Saturday, 24 Dec 2022
Saturday, 31 Dec 2022

Mesa Arizona Temple

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Phoenix Arizona Temple

5220 W. Pinnacle Peak Road, Phoenix, AZ 85310

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Monday, 31 Oct 2022 - Monday, 14 Nov 2022
Wednesday, 23 Nov 2022 (Limited)
Thursday, 24 Nov 2022
Saturday, 24 Dec 2022
Saturday, 31 Dec 2022 (Limited)

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Gathering Humanity

Providing a warm welcome to refugees in Arizona

By Hillary Jade Fevrier

Almost a decade ago, a refugee family from Syria arrived in the Phoenix valley. When the mother was found crying in the kitchen, visiting social workers could only imagine what the woman was going through. When the mother's six-year-old son led the social workers to the bedroom that was prepared for him, the cause of the mother's emotion became apparent. For two years before the family's arrival in Arizona, the son had been praying for a safe place to live and for a bicycle. There, in the closet, was his very own bicycle.

The bicycle was provided by a local charity and volunteer organization, Gathering Humanity. This story was just one of the miracles that Gathering Humanity co-founder, Christina, is able to share. Gathering Humanity is a non-profit organization that helps refugees and asylum seekers by providing them with the basic supplies that are required by law. It has been operating in the Phoenix Valley for six years and has assisted thousands of refugees in that time.

To obtain refugee status in the United States, hopeful people must pass through many levels of screenings and clearances. The process is exhaustive and can take years. Most people are coming from war-torn countries or other dangerous situations. Some children were born in refugee camps and have never lived in any other environment. The journey to Arizona is never an easy one for the refugees, but when they do arrive, the warm welcome from the Gathering Humanity volunteers makes the transition a little bit easier.

Gathering Humanity maintains a Costco-sized warehouse with donated items arranged in meticulous order from floor to ceiling, ready to distribute to refugees. Christina explains that Gathering Humanity used to have furniture for the newcomers, but the donations have been so plentiful that there is no longer space for the furniture.

"It looks like a lot," she said, "but when you consider that last week we had seventy-five new arrivals, it all moves really quickly." The organization has no big donors or corporate sponsors. "It's 100% volunteer-run," says Christina. "It really shouldn't work. But somehow, it always does."

"When ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God." (Mosiah 2:17) The founders of Gathering Humanity embody this beautiful verse. We could all be more involved in serving our fellow beings, and Gathering Humanity is a great place to make a big difference for people with big needs. Those donating to this charitable operation serve some of the most deserving of God's children through the opportunities offered by Gathering Humanity.

Donations are always needed and other ways to get involved with this amazing organization can be found at www.gatheringhumanity.org.

Photo courtesy of Gathering Humanity

Families get a warm welcome from Gathering Humanity volunteers.

Photo courtesy of Gathering Humanity

Gathering Humanity partners with other local charities.